



[3411-15-P]

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Environmental Impact Statements: Tongass National Forest Land and Resource
Management Plan Amendment

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA

ACTION: Notice of Objection Filing Period

TITLE: Tongass National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan Amendment

SUMMARY: M. Earl Stewart, the Forest Supervisor for the Tongass National Forest, Alaska Region, has prepared a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and draft Record of Decision (ROD) for the Tongass National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan Amendment. The draft ROD selects Alternative Five.

The FEIS, draft ROD, and Forest Plan are available on the forest's website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/R10/Tongass/PlanAmend>. A hardcopy and further information is available by contacting the person listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.

The draft ROD is subject to objection under 36 CFR Part 219, Subpart B. A written notice of objection, including any attachments, must be submitted (regular mail, express delivery, messenger service, fax, e-mail, or hand delivery) within 60 days of the publication date of this notice in the newspapers of record, the *Juneau Empire* and the *Ketchikan Daily News*. The newspaper notice is the exclusive means for calculating the

time to file an objection (36 CFR 219.56(b)(3)). An electronic scan of this notice will be posted on the website noted above. Those wishing to object to the draft ROD should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Any objection must be submitted to the Alaska Regional Forester, Beth Pendleton, who is the Objection Reviewing Officer, at one of the addresses listed in the ADDRESSES section below.

The objection process provides an opportunity for members of the public who have participated in the planning process for the forest plan amendment to have any unresolved concerns reviewed by the Forest Service prior to a final decision by the Responsible Official. Under 36 CFR 219.53(a), objections will be accepted only from those individuals or organizations who have previously submitted substantive formal comments related to this amendment of the Tongass Forest Plan during the opportunities for public comment provided for this amendment. Objections must be based on previously submitted substantive comments attributed to the objector, unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the opportunities for public comment. (36 CFR 219.53(a)). In addition, objections must meet the content requirements of 36 CFR 219.54(c), which can be found in SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.

All objections are open to public inspection and will be published in the newspapers of record and posted to the Forest Service website (<http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/R10/Tongass/PlanAmend>).

DATES: The period for objections begins upon publication of this notice in the newspapers of record and ends 60 days thereafter.

ADDRESSES: Objections must be submitted to one of the addresses below:

1. Postal Delivery: USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region; Attn: Tongass Objections; P.O. Box 21628; Juneau, AK 99802-1628.
2. Express, Messenger, or Hand Delivery: USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region; Attn: Tongass Objections; 709 W. 9th Street; Juneau, AK 99801-1807.
3. Electronically Filed: E-mail; *objections-alaska-regional-office@fs.fed.us*; Fax: (907) 586-7840

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan Howle, Plan Amendment Project Manager, Tongass National Forest, Federal Building Ketchikan, AK, 99901-6591, (907) 228-6340, or *showle@fs.fed.us*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered objections are 8:00 AM to 5:00 pm (Alaska Standard Time), Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Electronic objections must be submitted in a commonly used format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx). For electronically mailed objections, the sender should normally receive an automated electronic acknowledgment from the agency as confirmation of receipt. If the sender does not receive an automated acknowledgment of the receipt of the objection, it is the sender's responsibility to ensure timely receipt by other means. The regulations prohibit extending the length of the objection filing period.

Any objection must include the following (36 CFR 219.54(c)):

1. The objector's name and address, telephone number or email address if available. Include the identification of the lead objector, when multiple names are listed on an objection.

2. Signature or other verification of authorship upon request (a scanned signature is allowed for electronic mail);
3. The title of the plan amendment, and the name and title of the Responsible Official;
4. A description of the issues and/or parts of the plan amendment to which the objection applies;
5. A brief statement explaining the objection and suggesting how the draft plan decision may be improved. If the objector believes the plan amendment is inconsistent with law, regulation, or policy, the reasons should be included;
6. A statement that shows the link between the objector's prior substantive formal comments and the content of the objection, unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the opportunities for formal comment.

Attach documents referenced in the objection except as noted at 36 CFR 219.54 (b).

The objector is responsible for ensuring the timely filing of written objections.

Timeliness will be determined as indicated in 36 CFR 219.56 (c).

The Reviewing Officer will provide written acknowledgement of receipt of the objection, if requested by the objector.

Dated: June 21, 2016

M. Earl Stewart

Forest Supervisor, Tongass National Forest

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